

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) An illumination device comprising:

a light source; and

a light guide plate that receives light from the light source through an end face and that emits the light propagating therein from one surface,

wherein the end face of the light guide plate through which the light is received serves as a light incident face, and another surface of the light guide plate is provided with a plurality of prism grooves arranged in stripes in plan view and having gently inclined faces and sharply inclined faces inclined at an inclination angle larger than an inclination angle of the gently inclined faces, and

wherein the inclination angle of the sharply inclined faces increases away from the light source.

3. (Previously Presented) An illumination device comprising:

a light source; and

a light guide plate that receives light from the light source through an end face and that emits the light propagating therein from one surface,

wherein the end face of the light guide plate through which the light is received serves as a light incident face, and another surface of the light guide plate is provided with a plurality of prism grooves arranged in stripes in plan view and having gently inclined faces and sharply inclined faces inclined at an inclination angle larger than an inclination angle of the gently inclined faces, and

wherein a length of the sharply inclined faces increases away from the light source.

4. (Currently Amended) An illumination device comprising:
a light source; and
a light guide plate that receives light from the light source through an end face and that emits the light propagating therein from one surface,

wherein the end face of the light guide plate through which the light is received serves as a light incident face, and another surface of the light guide plate is provided with a plurality of prism grooves arranged in stripes in plan view and having gently inclined faces and sharply inclined faces inclined at an inclination angle θ_2 larger than an inclination angle θ_1 of the gently inclined faces,

wherein, a θ_2 -coefficient of the light guide plate increases away from the light source, and the θ_2 -coefficient is one of a ratio of a length of the sharply inclined faces to a pitch of the prism grooves, and the product of the number of the sharply inclined faces per unit length of the light guide plate, and the length of the sharply inclined faces, the pitch being constant.

5. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 4, wherein the θ_2 -coefficient of the light guide plate is increased away from the light source by changing the inclination angle θ_1 of the gently inclined faces and the inclination angle θ_2 of the sharply inclined faces.

6. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 4, wherein the θ_2 -coefficient of the light guide plate is increased away from the light source by changing at least one of the pitch of the prism grooves and the length of the sharply inclined faces while the sum of the inclination angle θ_1 of the gently inclined faces and the inclination angle θ_2 of the sharply inclined faces is not fixed.

7. (Currently Amended) An illumination device according to claim 4, wherein the θ_2 -coefficient is increased away from the light source by changing ~~one of the pitch of the prism grooves and~~ the length of the sharply inclined faces while the sum of the inclination angle θ_1 of the gently inclined faces and the inclination angle θ_2 of the sharply inclined faces is substantially fixed.

8. (Currently Amended) An illumination device according to claim 4, wherein the θ_2 -coefficient is increased away from the light source by changing the length of the sharply inclined faces and a height of prism tops between the prism grooves while the inclination angle θ_1 of the gently inclined faces, and the inclination angle θ_2 of the sharply inclined faces, ~~and the pitch of the prism grooves~~ are fixed.

9. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 4, wherein the θ_2 -coefficient is set to be within the range of 0.045 to 0.085 when being the product of the number of the sharply inclined faces per unit length of the light guide plate, and the length of the sharply inclined faces.

10. (Original) An illumination device according to claim 4, wherein the inclination angle θ_1 of the gently inclined faces of the prism grooves in the light guide plate is set to be within the range of 1° to 5° , and the inclination angle θ_2 of the sharply inclined faces is set to be within the range of 40° to 45° .

11. (Currently Amended) An illumination device according to Claim ~~[[4]]~~ 4, wherein an angle formed between the prism grooves and the light incident face of the light guide is within the range of 6.5° to 8.5° .

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

an illumination device; and
a liquid crystal display unit to be illuminated by the illumination device,

wherein the illumination device comprises:

a light source; and

a light guide plate that receives light from the light source through an end face and that emits the light propagating therein from one surface,

wherein the end face of the light guide plate through which the light is received serves as a light incident face, and another surface of the light guide plate is provided with a plurality of prism grooves arranged in stripes in plan view and having gently inclined faces and sharply inclined faces inclined at an inclination angle larger than an inclination angle of the gently inclined faces, and

wherein the inclination angle of the sharply inclined faces increases away from the light source.

14. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

an illumination device; and

a liquid crystal display unit to be illuminated by the illumination device,

wherein the illumination device comprises:

a light source; and

a light guide plate that receives light from the light source through an end face and that emits the light propagating therein from one surface,

wherein the end face of the light guide plate through which the light is received serves as a light incident face, and another surface of the light guide plate is provided with a plurality of prism grooves arranged in stripes in plan view and having gently inclined faces and sharply inclined

faces inclined at an inclination angle larger than an inclination angle of the gently inclined faces, and

wherein a length of the sharply inclined faces increases away from the light source.

15. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising:
an illumination device; and
a liquid crystal display unit to be illuminated by the illumination device,

wherein the illumination device comprises:

a light source; and

a light guide plate that receives light from the light source through an end face and that emits the light propagating therein from one surface,

wherein the end face of the light guide plate through which the light is received serves as a light incident face, and another surface of the light guide plate is provided with a plurality of prism grooves arranged in stripes in plan view and having gently inclined faces and sharply inclined faces inclined at an inclination angle θ_2 larger than an inclination angle θ_1 of the gently inclined faces,

wherein a θ_2 -coefficient of the light guide plate increases away from the light source, and the θ_2 -coefficient is one of a ratio of a length of the sharply inclined faces to the pitch of the prism grooves, and a product of the number of the sharply inclined faces per unit length of the light guide plate, and the length of the sharply inclined faces, the pitch being constant.

16. (New) An illumination device according to claim 4, wherein the θ_2 -coefficient of the light guide plate is increased away from the light source by changing the length of the sharply inclined faces, and a prism-top height..

17. (New) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 15, wherein the θ_2 -coefficient of the light guide plate is increased away from the light source by changing the inclination angle θ_1 of the gently inclined faces and the inclination angle θ_2 of the sharply inclined faces.

18. (New) An liquid crystal display device according to claim 15, wherein the θ_2 -coefficient of the light guide plate is increased away from the light source by changing the length of the sharply inclined faces while the sum of the inclination angle θ_1 of the gently inclined faces and the inclination angle θ_2 of the sharply inclined faces is varied.

19. (New) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 15, wherein the θ_2 -coefficient is increased away from the light source by changing the length of the sharply inclined faces while the sum of the inclination angle θ_1 of the gently inclined faces and the inclination angle θ_2 of the sharply inclined faces is fixed.

20. (New) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 15, wherein the θ_2 -coefficient is increased away from the light source by changing the length of the sharply inclined faces and a height of prism tops between the prism grooves while the inclination angle θ_1 of the gently inclined faces, the inclination angle θ_2 of the sharply inclined faces are fixed.

21. (New) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 15, wherein the θ_2 -coefficient is set to be within the range of 0.045 to 0.085 when being the product of the number of the sharply inclined faces per unit length of the light guide plate, and the length of the sharply inclined faces.

22. (New) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 15, wherein the inclination angle θ_1 of the gently inclined faces of the prism grooves in the light guide plate is set to be within the range of 1° to 5° , and

the inclination angle θ_2 of the sharply inclined faces is set to be within the range of 40° to 45° .

23. (New) A liquid crystal display device according to Claim 15, wherein an angle formed between the prism grooves and the light incident face of the light guide is within the range of 6.5° to 8.5° .

24. (New) An illumination device comprising:

a light source; and

~ a light guide plate that receives light from the light source through an end face and that emits the light propagating therein from one surface,

wherein the end face of the light guide plate through which the light is received serves as a light incident face, and another surface of the light guide plate is provided with a plurality of prism grooves arranged in stripes in plan view and having gently inclined faces and sharply inclined faces inclined at an inclination angle θ_2 larger than an inclination angle θ_1 of the gently inclined faces,

wherein the pitch and at least one of the inclination angle of the sharply inclined faces, the length of the sharply inclined faces, and a height of prism tops, varies such that a θ_2 -coefficient of the light guide plate increases away from the light source, and the θ_2 -coefficient is one of a ratio of a length of the sharply inclined faces to a pitch of the prism grooves, and the product of the number of the sharply inclined faces per unit length of the light guide plate, and the length of the sharply inclined faces.